GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:594
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2001
SPEECH OF EX-DEFENCE MINISTER ON DOORDARSHAN
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the address to the nation by Shri George Fernandes on Doordarshan afterhis resignation from the Council of Ministers was the first of its kind by a Minister or a former Minister;

(b) if so, whether the Government was initially advised not to permit such a political accusatory speech on the Doordarshan; and

(c) the reasons for permitting the use of official media in the aforesaid manner ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c): Prasar Bharati has intimated that when Mr. George Fernandes made thestatement on Doordarshan, he was still the Defence Minister. Further, Prasar Bharati has complete independence in the matter of selection and broadcast of programmes and the Government does not intervene in programme related matters. The statement was carried due to its exclusive nature and newsworthiness.